

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00899 050248Z
ACTION AF-10

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R 041400Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 899

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR AF - MOOSE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BID, XA, MR
SUBJECT: FOOD AID FOR AFRICA

REF: STATE 82578

1. PLEASED TO REPORT THAT WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN INITIATIVE
ALONG LINES SUGGESTED REFTEL. AID/W HAS GIVEN US ITS APPROVAL
FOR THE DESIGN PHASE OF A GRAIN SYSTEMS PROJECT. DESIGN TEAM
EXPECTED TO ARRIVE HERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. PROJECT ENVISAGES THE COOPERATION OF ALL DONORS AND WOULD
PROVIDE FOR A GUARANTEED SUPPLY OF APPROXIMATELY 30,000 METRIC
TONS PER ANNUM, OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD, WITH USG CONTRIBUTING
SIGNIFICANT SHARE. IT WOULD CONTAIN BUILT-IN FORMULA FOR AUTOMA-
TIC INCREASE OR DECREASE OF ANNUAL TOTAL DEPENDING ON LOCAL GRAIN
HARVESTS AND MAGNITUDE COMMERCIAL RICE IMPORTS. USG CONTRIBUTION
WOULD BE EITHER PL-480 TITLE II OR TITLE III OR COMBINATION
OF BOTH. WE WOULD EMPHASIZE TITLE III FOR IMPORTANT REASONS
SET FORTH REFTEL PARA 5. WE HOPE TO LAUNCH PROJECT IN FY-79.
USG CONTRIBUTION WILL PROBABLY BE IN THE ORDER OF 10,000 METRIC
TONS. THIS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE AID BUDGET SUBMISSION DUE
END OF MAY.

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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00899 050248Z

3. GRAIN TO BE PROVIDED UNDER PROJECT WOULD BE DIS-
TRIBUTED IN THREE WAYS: (A) THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE WOULD BE
TOLD BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITANIA (GIRM) AT CURRENT MARKET
PRICES; (B) ANOTHER PORTION WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED BY GIRM IN A
QUOTE FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM UNQUOTE, I.E. FOOD WOULD BE GIVEN IN
LIEU OF WAGES; (C) A FINAL PORTION WOULD BE DONATED DIRECTLY

TO INDIGENTS.

4. A SECOND COMPONENT OF PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WAREHOUSES IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY TO ENSURE A STEADY GRAIN RESERVE.

5. THE SYSTEM WOULD ALSO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PRICING POLICY AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF MAURITANIAN CEREALS OFFICE, AS WELL AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN CROP ESTIMATION AND STATISTICAL REPORTING WHICH ARE NON-EXISTENT AT PRESENT.

6. IN OUR VIEW, CURRENT DONOR PRACTICES ARE PROBABLY DISINCENTIVES TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AS ARE GIRM POLICIES ASSOCIATED WITH BUYING AND SELLING GRAIN. THE GRAIN SYSTEMS PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO CORRECT THESE PRACTICES, AS WELL AS A TANGENTIALLY PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR THE RURAL POOR THROUGH THE FOOD FOR WORK COMPONENT, THUS HELPING TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURES CAUSED BY RURAL EXODUS. GIRM HAS BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT PROJECT, INCLUDING ALL RAMIFICATIONS, AND IS AGREEABLE TO BEGIN DESIGN PHASE.

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Message Attributes

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